



Idaho Logging Safety News

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Dirk Kempthorne, Governor
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What's Been Happening!?

By David Kludt

Looks like we've made it through another summer. I suppose it was pretty typical—wet in June and everybody wondering if they would ever get started and then almost overnight—hot, dry and six inches of dust. I guess that's what everybody must love about logging.

We had a pretty good summer accident wise around the state except in the area that I work. With a fatality in June and then one in July, I was pulling my hair so much I was starting to get that Galen look. These fatalities were both timber fallers, both with years of experience, both doing excellent work and both working for outfits that put considerable effort into running safe logging jobs. As in most cases, these accidents came down to a judgment call by the individuals doing the falling. As we look at these accidents I always try to put myself in their shoes. What would I have done differently? With the evidence that was there, I would have probably made the same call. Then it comes down to the timing and the "what ifs". I don't know how long they stayed behind the stump but a few more

seconds would have made the difference in both cases between a fatality or a near-miss. That's what always makes it so sad.

Last year at this time we had a two week period with three fatalities. I don't think we ever really figured out why other than it had been a long summer and as the season was wearing down, people may have tended to let their guard down. I mention this only as a reminder and I'm certainly hoping that we will not go through this again.

I suspect that by the time this letter comes out, some of you will have already shot that record bull elk and be wondering why the rest of us are still waiting for our turn at taking a few days off. I think I can say, with some degree of certainty, that this year will be different. I'm going to shoot faster, possibly take more brush shots, certainly more sound shots (if I can hear them) and just be more aggressive! That's enough for now. Have a safe fall and a memorable hunting season!

This is the cat side of Pineda Brothers Logging

from Kamiah. They have been around the area since 1991 working for various outfits in the area and decided to go on their own about five years ago. They also had a line skidding side going on this sale but they were spread all over the hillside and not much chance to get their pictures. They seem to have all the work they can handle. It's pretty obvious why. They work hard, do a good job and do it safely! That's what it's all about □



Mario Zarate, Arnold Pineda, Joel Pineda, Alonzo Pineda (I think Joel was calling the shots on this particular day)

Inside this issue:			
Pineda Brothers:Logging	2	We Have A Logging Accident!!!	8
Ode to Emmy Lou	3	Saw Cuts Back In The News	10
OSHA Training Session	4	Stupid Questions	10
Accidents / Near Misses	5	Choker Poems	11
Logging Fatalities	6	Doing it Right	12
		Safety Advisors	13

ODE TO EMMY LOU

David Weech, Coeur d'Alene

Some years ago before the current prosperity in the industry and before LEAP, I went through a spell of using some second-hand, less than professional chain saws. When I finally was able to buy a brand new Husqvarna 268 which had such a trim shape and sounded so sweet I was so touched I named her after Emmy Lou Harris and wrote this "Ode



DAVID WEECH



Hugging his latest love interest



To Emmy Lou".

ODE TO EMMY LOU

I had a little chain saw
Her name was Emmy Lou.
She always smoked a little
But she never took a chew.

She revved up on gasoline
Though low octane she dreaded.
What made her feel really keen
Was sipping super-unleaded.

Though I held her more than Mrs.
A jealous word she did not utter.
For you see there were no kisses,
It was only bread and butter.

When this affair sadly ended
It broke both our hearts
Tree crushed beyond being mended,
She became just so many parts.

This proves that most loggers are really more sensitive than people think with or without "sensitivity" training □



OSHA holds a training session for Potlatch Corporation Loggers

By Cliff Osborne

Potlatch Corporation's Idaho Logging operations entered into a partnership with OSHA a few years ago. One part of the program is training. Potlatch's contractors, mainly those involved in line skidding, attended the session held near Bovill on Mark Darby's line job the last part of June this summer.

Tom Smith with Potlatch's St. Maries operations headed the session. Tom is a contract supervisor and safety coordinator for that area. The main topic covered was proper guying of line machines. Oregon OSHA and Potlatch suggest using braided and pressed eyes and a shackle for extensions and guy lines. They do not want wedged buttons used because of previous failures. Also, when the wedged buttons are pull tested they failed quicker than pressed buttons, babbit buttons and the eye and shackle systems. Potlatch is also requiring their loggers to use a double guying system on the link-belts and other converted machines. □



ACCIDENTS

A timber faller working in northern Idaho was pinned under a large log when a small sapling holding the log broke loose and the log rolled onto him. He received a broken pelvis and a broken leg from the incident.

I'm sure this logger would be the first to remind us it is NEVER a good idea to work below felled timber! □



Near Miss...

By Cliff Osborne

I received a report of an incident where a loaded log truck's back wrapper came loose and was run over by the trailer wheel breaking the wrapper. The wrapper then went flying around the load and almost hit a couple of women walking beside the road.

I remember the system Rod Vowels used to keep his wrappers from sliding under the load when the logs settled. He had a sharpened pin about 6 inches long with an eye welded on the end. He would drive the nail or pin through the chain above his binder. This prevented the chain and binder from slipping around the load. When removing the wrappers at the mill he would just run his cheater pipe in the eye and pop the pin out of the log. With a wrapper and binder costing around a hundred bucks it seems like a good idea. Obviously, you still need to keep the wrappers tightened as necessary. □

Near Miss

NEAR MISS.... A timber faller was cutting trees on a ridge just above the main road. The brush was so thick he couldn't see the road below where he was falling the trees unless he walked down to the road bank. He had felled a drag and waited until the skidder had hooked on and headed for the landing. He then felled the next tree which was already notched.

Suddenly he could hear the landing man screaming and out through the brush he could also see the landing man waving his arms. There was no skidder in sight! As he headed down to the road to see what was wrong, he heard the skidder idling right below him. Sure enough, the skidder had lost a tree from his drag and came back to get another after the faller had fired up his saw. There was the tree lying across the skidder and the operator standing in the road scratching his head. There were no injuries to the operator other than a little hurt pride. He had still been in the skidder when the tree hit.

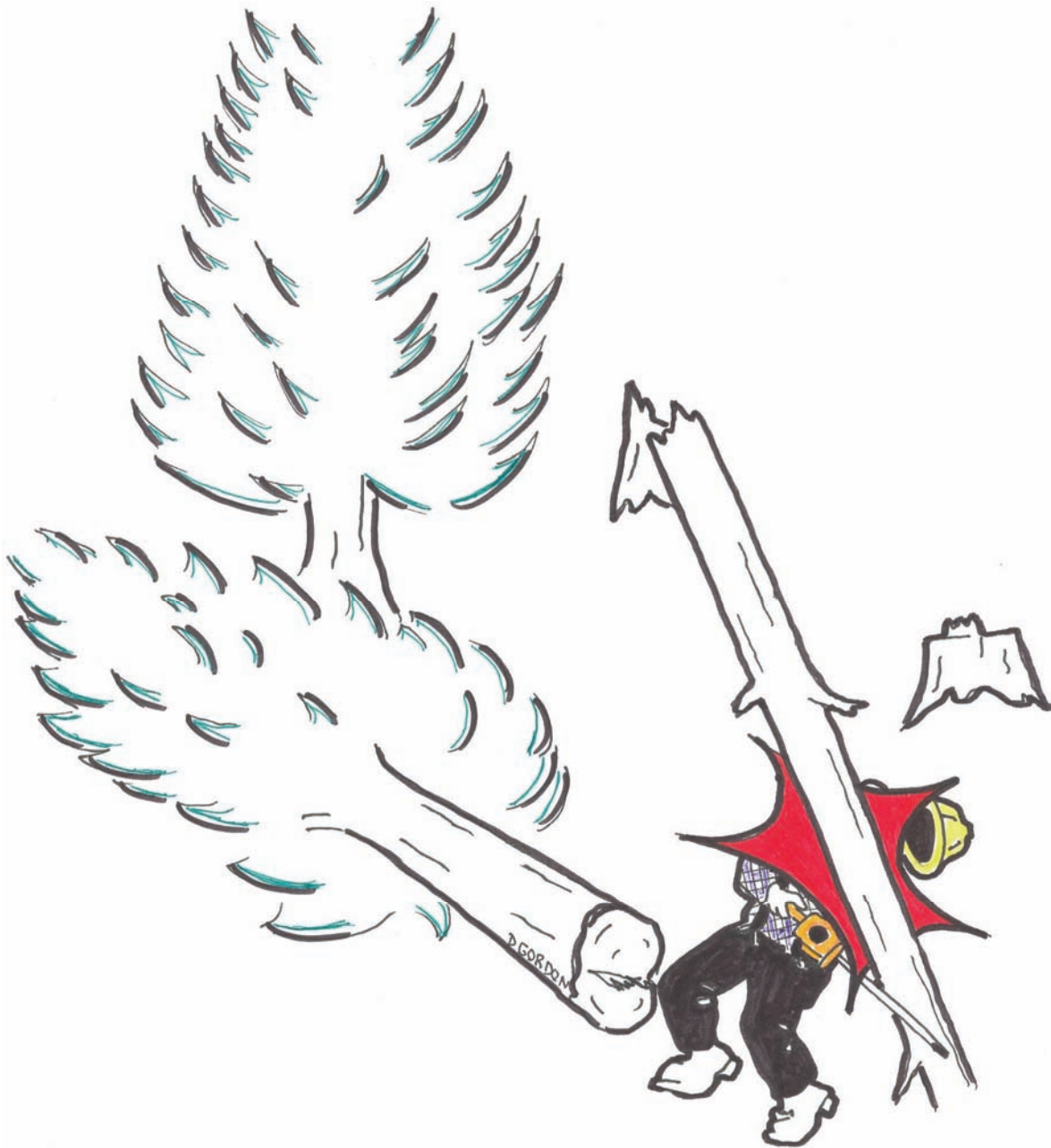
This is a situation that comes up every once in a while and really requires a plan and good communication between the faller and the skidder operator.

Some outfits have provided handheld FM radios for the skidder operators and their fallers for situations like this and they work great. The loggers also say the radios save them a lot of steps and wasted time for numerous things that come up during the day. □

Logging Fatality #1

Logging Fatality #1

A timber faller was fatally injured when he was struck by a snag. The faller had felled a cedar about 16 inches in diameter around the hill. Either the limbs from the cedar or the wind created by the falling tree caused the snag, which was about 10 feet up the hill from the top of the cedar, to rock and come back in his direction. He had moved about 10 feet down the hill to long butt the cedar when the snag hit. Incidentally, the cedar tree was his last tree for the day.



Logging Fatality #2

Logging Fatality #2

A timber faller was fatally injured when he was struck by a root-wad that was lying on the lower bank of the skid trail. He was working below the skid trail and had fell a white fir about three foot on the stump around the hill to the skid trail. Apparently the vibration from the tree hitting the ground caused the root-wad, which was about 9 feet above him, to roll down the hill as he stood beside the stump.



WE HAVE A LOGGING ACCIDENT!!!

By Galen Hamilton

With those five words we have the complete attention of the best emergency help in the nation at our disposal. If we, as a logging industry don't use it, shame on us!

I know you are thinking "oh great, another article on EMERGENCY RESCUE", and you're right. And you are going to keep getting them until we get this deal straight! (how is that for a threat)

I better start out by saying that most of the logging companies out there have done a darn good job getting an emergency plan in place and we do appreciate it. We have said in the past that it only takes an "hour or so" to make a plan for your company. What we sometimes forget is that you logging company owners are approached daily by people wanting you to do this and that, and it will only take an "hour or so". Well, after those fifteen hour days trying to keep your logging company going those "hour or so's" are kind of hard to come by. Kludt reminds us of that often so when you loggers put out the effort for this safety stuff and I say "we appreciate it", we really do.

O.K., we got that being nice stuff out of the way, so here is the deal. If you own a logging company and you don't have an Emergency Plan.....

....DO THIS:

---GET THE LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE OF YOUR JOB SITE

---INSTRUCT THE ENTIRE CREW HOW TO USE THE PHONE OR RADIO

---CALL 1-800-632-8000 or 208-846-7610

---First words out of your mouth "WE HAVE A LOGGING ACCIDENT"

I can't say it any plainer! If you want some help, call one of us.

As we all know, those numbers will put us in contact with STATE COMM. Because they are aware of how important they are to our loggers throughout the state, they have been trained how to handle those "unusual" situations that our logging industry creates. I was told recently by the people at State Comm. that as soon as they hear "WE HAVE A LOGGING ACCIDENT", all else is put on hold and those loggers on the other end of the radio are "TOP PRIORTY". The lady at State Comm. said if there was a nuclear attack in the field out back of their office they may take a quick look at that, but otherwise the hurt logger was their number one concern.

Boys, we got a good thing going with these people so lets take advantage of it! As an extra incentive I promise that when all of you loggers get your emergency rescue plans in place, I will quit writing about it and get back to those "Growing Up As A Good Looking Logger From Horseshoe Bend" articles that are everyone's favorite!

Dan Musselman (ALC Safety Geek) hooking the noise monitor on Wade Parkins, Link-Belt operator for Scott Logging out of St. Maries, while chaser Duane Stiles looks on.

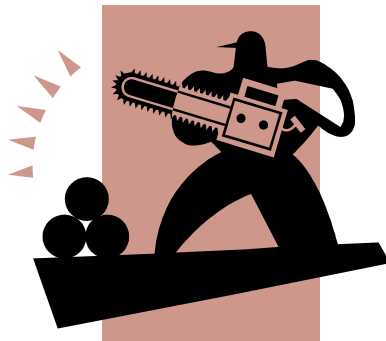


I went all the way down in the strip just to get a picture of Brent Patrick who saws for Scott Logging.

It was a little hot down there! Brent was using a proto type Stihl chainsaw and really going through the trees.

SAW CUTS BACK IN THE NEWS

We get a report on types of accidents you loggers are having throughout the state and that helps determine what we look at as safety guys. Kludt said when he first started our safety program, SAW CUTS were always one of the leading types of accidents that loggers were having. Over the years with the better equipment such as chain brakes and saw chaps SAW CUTS have virtually disappeared from those reports. I remember a few years back John Graham, an insurance guy for the Associated Loggers Exchange, showing me that SAW CUTS for that period were something like .009, not even a full percentage point.



Well, over the past little while that is changing and I thought it was worth a short article to call your attention to it. I have asked several different timber fallers about this lately trying to figure out why we are seeing this increase. More limbs and smaller timber were the reasons I heard the most. "You used to reach out to cut a limb off and the next limb was two feet from the tip of your bar, now, the next ten limbs are within inches and you touch one accidentally with the tip and it 'is back chewing at your chaps in a second'". A couple of the guys also pointed out that the smaller timber was a lot of times off the ground and unstable causing a fellow to lose his balance, especially out at the end trying to lop the top. Brush was also brought up as a contributor along with fatigue. "We are out here longer than we used to be and I just flat get tired".

A couple of recent SAW CUT accidents happened and the fallers were not wearing leg protection. It has been a hot summer and those chaps don't exactly cool things down, but looking at those legs after a saw chain has tore through makes a fellow think twice about leaving your chaps in the saw box.

ASK STUPID QUESTIONS AT THE PRE-WORK MEETING

By Galen Hamilton

A while back I wrote an article about getting some of the safety issues you loggers run into ironed out at the pre-work meetings you have before starting new jobs. Questions like "can the fallers cut an unmarked tree if it is a safety hazard" or "can the skidding crew fall snags around a landing"? Simple questions like these will take the pressure off the crew so they will be able to make the right safety decisions without feeling they may get into trouble. I wrote that article just as a reminder knowing you loggers do a good job in this area. However, by what I have witnessed lately in a few cases, apparently I didn't make the list of questions to ask thorough enough! Some logging companies have gotten in trouble for fixing a safety concern before they started working. **WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL!**

The problem is that you darn old loggers see a safety hazard that is so **OBVIOUS**, your brains don't even think to ask about it. You realize that anyone with a lick of sense would just automatically figure that such blatant safety hazards would be taken care of without having to mention it. I think what the problem is that you loggers have common sense, and that seems to be getting in your way. You notice I did not say "too much" common sense. No, even if you have a speck of common sense it will not let you think like a few of the characters that are "in charge" of your logging job.

So, before you start your next job, drive through it and look for any safety concerns that you need to ask about in the pre-work meeting. Then, take the branding hammer and give yourself several real good whacks in the head knocking out all the common sense you have, and then drive back through the job. You may then be able to add to your list of questions to ask such as "can we fall the 99% rotted off white fir snag leaning directly over the designated landing even though it had a "wildlife tree" tag put on it twenty five years ago" or "can we remove the trees along the road that are almost burnt clear off and are so close the trucks mirrors are whacking them"? Yes, I know they are stupid questions but apparently in some cases necessary to ask.

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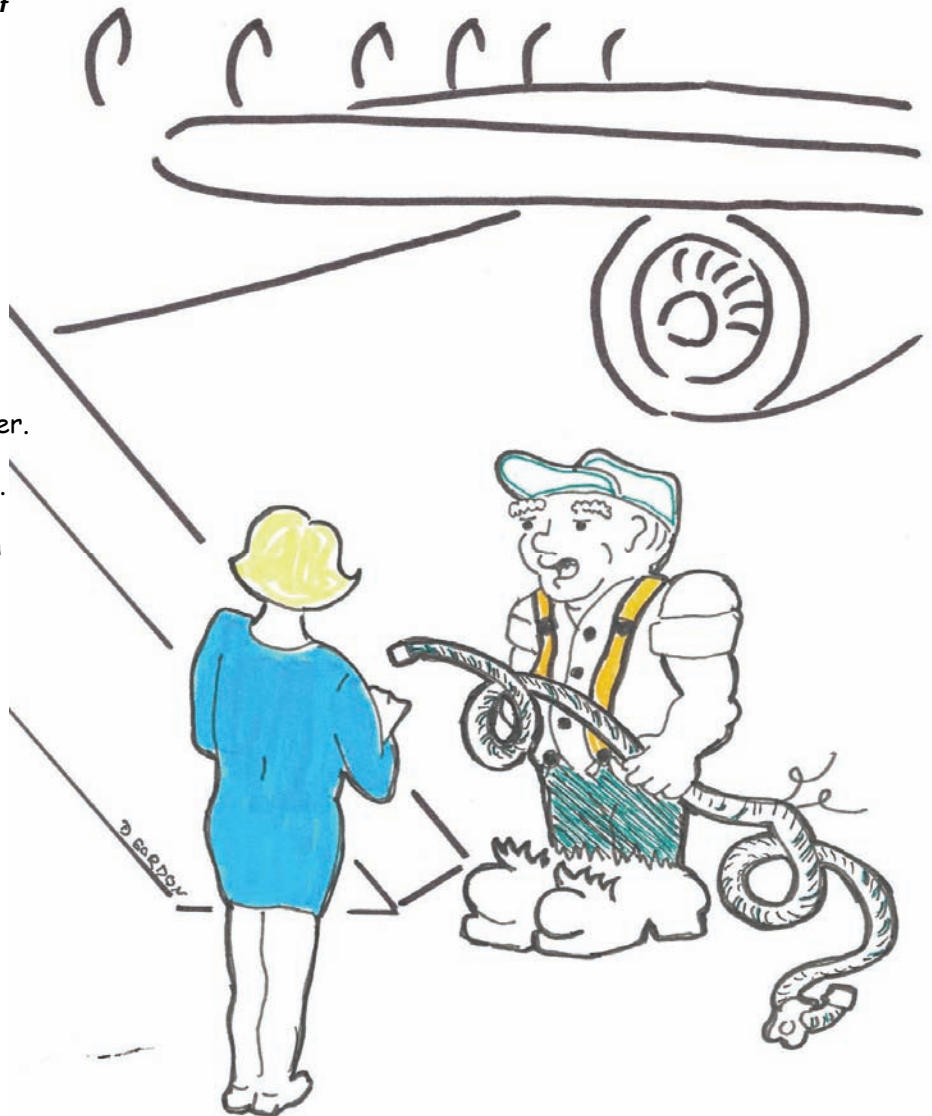
As you can tell, I wrote this article when the old blood pressure was still boiling. The majority of the sale administrators, engineers and inspectors that you loggers deal with are a pretty good bunch and will work with a fellow. It is just that every once in a while you run across one of them that is such a, well you know.

In the meantime, I guess you loggers will have to make those safety decisions using only the years of experience in the woods and common sense! □

The following is a poem written by Charlie Johnson who runs line machine and hooks for Keck Logging out of Potlatch. Charlie wrote this in 1974 at the age of 11.

CHOKER

A very devilish instrument
That is made of a length of cable
That sports a pair of knobs and a bell.
The choker is made by enemies of the logger.
It is built to kink on the 1st log it embraces.
It jumps around, poking the knobs into shin
Bones and belly buttons.
Jaggers poke out when you least expect
It and are driven through the thumb
And hand. It will loop itself around
A sapling so that when it is jerked on it
Comes peeling back and drives the knob
Through your teeth and down your throat.
Always does what it wants to and seldom
What you want it to.



"Just in case the plane goes down, this old choker gets hung up on everything and no way will it break!!

DOING IT RIGHT AT CARLSON LOGGING

Joe Pilgrim takes the time to do some heavy duty "blocking" before he starts some maintenance work on this shear.



The goal was to replace a couple of rollers on the machines undercarriage. After lifting the machine up with its' own hydraulics, Joe and some of the crew placed blocks at each end of the machine. After loosening the track they then placed blocks between the track and the roller frame. Joe was going to have to spend quite a bit of time drilling out some broken bolts before he put in the new rollers and wanted to be able to concentrate on the job instead of worrying about the machine falling on him.

This was all taking place on Ernie Carlson's logging job in eastern Idaho. Ernie has two rules if you work for him, work real hard and do it safe! Thanks for the effort CARLSON LOGGING.



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Cliff couldn't resist putting this picture in. This was the 100 year celebration of Potlatch and SHOWS logging is still going strong in Idaho.

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